

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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SECSTATE FOR CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEDU, US, IT
SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT OF US CITIZENS IN ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES

REF STATE 149097

BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE FOLLOWING IS SITUATION POSSIBLE
BAN NEW FOREIGN STUDENTS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES.
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW:

1. IN RESPONSE TO FONMIN CABLE OF JUNE 23 ITALIAN
CONSULATE GENERAL, NEW YORK, ISSUED FOLLOWING JUNE 24
STATEMENT SIGNED BY CONSUL GENERAL DE BOSIS: "OWING TO
SATURATION OF ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES
HAVE DECIDED TO SUSPEND ALL ENROLLMENTS OF FOREIGN CITIZENS
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 1977-78 AND 1978-79.
" THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESTRICTION APPLIES ALSO, WITHOUT
ANY EXCEPTION, TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY FILLED UP
THE PRE-ENROLLMENT FORMS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1977-78."

2. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT BAN DOES NOT APPLY TO FOREIGN
STUDENTS ALREADY ENROLLED, ALTHOUGH IT DOES TO THOSE WHO
HAVE GONE THROUGH PRE-ENROLLMENT FORMALITIES FOR DEGREE
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PROGRAMS. STUDENTS SPONSORED BY GOVERNMENTS OR INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD ALSO NOT BE AFFECTED.

3. IN RESPONSE REQUEST THEIR NEW YORK OFFICE ANSA ISSUED
JUNE 28 FOLLOWING ONE PARA STORY AFTER CHECKING THREE MINISTRIES
CONCERNED, EDUCATION, INTERIOR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS: "ACCORDING
TO WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IT DOES

NOT APPEAR THAT THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INSTRUCTION HAVE YET TAKEN ANY DECISION ON THE QUESTION (THAT OF THE ENROLLMENT OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN ITALIAN (STATE) UNIVERSITIES). AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROBLEM OF ENROLLMENT OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES IS UNDER STUDY ON THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS THAT CONTROL SUCH MATTERS, PARTICULARLY DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO ATTEND ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES AND THE PRESENT STATE OF OVERCROWDING IN THE UNIVERSITIES."

4. DESPITE ASSURANCES IMPLICIT IN ANSA STORY, DIRECTOR, ITALO-AMERICAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION IN ROME, HAS HAD CONFIRMED BY OFFICIALS OF BOTH MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR THAT A BAN ON NEW FOREIGN ENROLLMENTS DOES INDEED EXIST. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN, HOWEVER, ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HERE FROM ANY SOURCE ABOUT THE BAN NOR HAS EMBASSY OR USIS BEEN ABLE TO REACH ANYONE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHO CAN CONFIRM ITS EXISTENCE. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT GET CLARIFICATION SOONEST.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY STARTED RECEIVING CABLES AND TELEPHONE CALLS FROM U.S. ON BAN. MOST OF THESE STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY MADE FIRM PLANS TO COME TO ITALY AND MANY ARE ON WAY TO BEGIN REQUIRED ITALIAN LANGUAGE STUDY.

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6. GOI ISSUED NEW REGULATIONS DECEMBER 1976 AIMED AT CONTROLLING BETTER FLOW FOREIGN STUDENTS. PRESENT DESIRE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FLOW PROBABLY DUE CONCERN POLITICAL AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES SOME MEDITERRANEAN AND MID-EASTERN STUDENTS IN ADDITION TO MAKE MORE ROOM HIDEOUSLY BULGING UNIVERSITY CLASSROOMS, AT SMALL DOMESTIC POLITICAL COST. DUE LACK OF EXPLICIT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH A BAN HERE IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE MINISTRIES CONCERNED, PERHAPS AT PROMPTING PM'S OFFICE, ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.

7. AT SAME TIME WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT GET MORE INFORMATION, IN VIEW SHORTNESS TIME REMAINING FOR NEW STUDENTS TO BEGIN PRE-ENROLLMENT LANGUAGE STUDIES AND NEW YORK CONGEN'S EXPLICIT ANNOUNCEMENT BAN, BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE REPRESENTATION AT HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY. POINTS TO BE RAISED ARE INAPPROPRIATENESS THIS UNILATERAL AND PRECIPITOUS ACTION WITH CLOSE ALLY, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING MUTUAL DESIRE USE OCCASION ANDREOTTI VISIT INCREASE CULTURAL EXCHANGES, LACK OF "DUE PROCESS" IN MAKING THIS MOVE WITHOUT WARNING OR CONSULTATION UNDOE HARDSHIP FOR THE US STUDENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE VERY BIG COMMITMENT COME ITALY

THIS YEAR BGIN STUDIES.

8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE SOONEST ACTION
OUTLINED PARA 7. WOULD ALSO MUCH APPRECIATE BIEF
REACTION WRAPUP FROM NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. WILL
CONTINUE TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.
GARDNER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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